

*In the Abstract:*

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT

~~A reduced complexity vector quantizer.~~ According to one embodiment of the invention, a multistage vector list quantizer comprises a first stage quantizer to select candidate first stage codewords from a plurality of first stage codewords, a reference table memory storing a set of second stage codewords for each first stage codeword, and a second stage codebook constructor to generate a reduced complexity second stage codebook that is the union of sets corresponding to the candidate first stage codewords selected by the first stage quantizer.